



Region Three Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
September 18, 2009

Decision Notice for

**Damselfly Fishing Access Site Proposed Perpetual Easement
Draft Environmental Assessment**

Proposed Action

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposed to obtain a perpetual easement from DNRC for a 2.25-acre tract of land in order to establish a formal fishing access site and provide continued public access at this location on the Madison River.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment on July 29, 2009.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken from July 29 through August 28, 2009. The EA was mailed to 30 groups and individuals.

Summary of Public Comment

Public comment letters, 10 total, expressed support for the proposed action. FWP did not receive comments opposed to the proposal.

Examples of Comments Supportive of the Project: 10 Total

“Official recognition/development of this pioneered site will create quality access mid-point between Canaday FAS and Black's Ford FAS and may well reduce the continued spread of other such non-official intrusions along this river corridor.”

“The proposed Perpetual Easement for the Damselfly FAS looks very good. With little or no negative impacts and lots of positives, this will be a great project.”

FWP Response: FWP acknowledges support of the perpetual easement and resulting continued public access.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with negotiating a perpetual easement on State School Trust Land for a fishing access site on the Madison River adjacent to the mouth of Cherry Creek. The site will be managed as a public recreation site to facilitate angling and other recreational activities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerald Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gerald Walker
Regional Parks Manager
